Household Worship Guide Nov 1 – Nov 7, '26

This household worship guide is designed to complement our Lord's Day sermons. Its purpose is to help focus your heart, mind, and life on the preached Word throughout the week, seamlessly connecting your household worship with our church's gathered worship.

We aim to enhance your thoughtful hearing of God's Word and encourage its deep meditation, so that it might truly take root in your lives. Therefore, during the early part of the week, this guide will help you reflect on the truths proclaimed on the Lord's Day just past. This reflection helps to solidify the Word's spiritual impact. Then, as the week progresses, we will turn our attention to the upcoming Lord's Day, preparing our hearts and minds. In this rhythm, we celebrate each Lord's Day as the pinnacle of our week.

Corporate worship is vital. It prepares us for the week ahead and offers a precious foretaste of our heavenly fellowship. Yet, our worship extends beyond the church gathering. This guide also encourages regular worship of God, both as families and as individuals, throughout the week.

FAITH BIBLE CHURCH (OPC)

307 Mantoloking Rd.

Brick, NJ 08723

Lord's Day
Nov 1

Household Worship Guide

Nov 1 - Nov 7

Prepare your heart for worship: Take a few moments of quiet before the service. Pray that the Lord would open your ears to hear His Word, soften your heart to receive it, and strengthen your will to obey it.

AM Sermon	Matthew 18:12-20 - *When No One Comes Looking*
PM Sermon	Ezekiel 34:1-16, 23-24 - *When Your Shepherd Failed You*
Read the sermon text(s), then discuss one or more of these questions	1. What is the main idea of the sermon(s)? 2. In one sentence how did the sermon(s) impact you? 3. Which of the following did you find in the sermon(s)? A sin to confess — An example to follow An error to avoid — A command to obey A promise to claim — A prayer to pray A blessing to enjoy — A warning to heed A fault to abandon — A principle to live Something new (to you) about God, Christ, or yourself?

- Is there something that 'shines' from the text—whatever impacts most, or draws attention?
- Is there something you don't understand, or a question the text raises in your mind?
- Is there a personal application to your life?
- Is there something you plan to share with someone else–and who will you share it with?
- How do ideas in the text interrelate? Or with other passages in this book–or in the whole Bible?
- How do you see Jesus Christ in the text?

Praise	Psalm 80:1-7 (Plea to the Shepherd of Israel)
Pray	1. Pray that you would hide the word read and preached in your hearts, and bring forth its fruit in your lives. 2. Pray for a member of our church, for your family, and for a non-Christian friend/family member.

Sermon Txt
Matt. 18:12-14

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Mon Nov 2

Reading	Zechariah 11:4-17 - Read the terrifying doom of worthless shepherds who feed themselves while slaughtering the flock.
Keys	• Yahweh abhors self-serving shepherds who exploit His flock. • God actively breaks His covenant with nations who despise His gentle care. • Foolish shepherds inevitably rise when people stubbornly reject the Good Shepherd's voice.
Questions	1. Where have we secretly preferred harsh, self-serving leaders over the gentle rule of Christ? 2. What specific worldly comforts distract us while wandering sheep perish in miserable spiritual blindness? 3. When do we treat vulnerable believers as disposable commodities rather than God's blood-bought treasure?
Notes	Zechariah exposes the dreadful reality of worthless shepherds, contrasting sharply with Christ's persistent search for a single wandering sheep. This prophetic warning clearly reveals our desperate daily need for the faithful Shepherd of Ezekiel who perfectly rescues His broken flock. Our hearts often drift toward flashy, domineering guides because we despise quiet, sacrificial obedience. We ignore perishing souls while building personal kingdoms of comfort, treating the vulnerable as burdens rather than brothers. Though we stumble into such callous indifference, the tender Shepherd still pursues us with unrelenting, electing love. We are easily numbed by our idols of convenience and self-preservation. Yet, our Savior patiently bore our worst rebellion. Repent of valuing comfort over perishing souls, and cast all hope entirely upon the perfect obedience of the Son.
Praise	Psalm 28:6-9 (Save your people and bless them)
Pray	1. Sovereign Spirit, break our selfish indifference toward wandering saints. 2. Gracious King, we thank You for yesterday's assurance that You seek out every lost sheep. 3. Draw [Name] to deeper fellowship, and awaken [Name] to saving faith.

Sermon Txt
Matt. 18:15-20

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Tue Nov 3

Reading	Psalm 119:176 - Even the believer who treasures the law confesses he wanders, so pray daily that Yahweh would seek you out.
Keys	• Believers inevitably stray like lost sheep and require God's active, seeking grace. Wandering servants never forget Yahweh's life-giving statutes. • Divine rescue relies entirely on covenant faithfulness rather than our meager strength.
Questions	1. Which secret, unconfessed sins currently cause our hearts to wander from the fold of Christ? 2. How frequently do we hide our spiritual backsliding instead of crying out for divine rescue? 3. In what exact ways does pride prevent us from accepting correction from faithful church brothers?
Notes	The psalmist honestly confesses his helpless wandering, showing the urgent personal necessity of church discipline mapped out in Matthew. We require both the pursuing grace of Yahweh and the loving confrontation of faithful brethren to restore us from self-deception. Hidden resentments and quiet lusts frequently pull our affections away from the narrow path. Rather than confessing our spiritual decay, we foolishly mask our failures behind religious routines, bristling with defensive anger when fellow saints dare to confront us. Yet, knowing our fragile frame, Christ provides His church as a healing refuge. Our stubborn self-sufficiency makes us detest loving correction. Knowing that Christ intimately understands our deepest frailties, abandon defensive pride. Rest every trembling soul solely upon the perfect righteousness of the Redeemer, finding complete pardon for every transgression.
Praise	Psalm 141:4-5 (Let the righteous smite me)
Pray	1. O God of all comfort, shatter our defensive pride when confronted by faithful friends. 2. Grant us the courage to apply the principles of church discipline taught this past Sunday. 3. Fortify [Name] against secret temptations, and grant [Name] eyes to see the truth.

Sermon Txt
Ezek. 34:1-16

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Wed Nov 4

Reading	Psalm 23:1-6 - Yahweh Himself shepherds His people, so you lack nothing even when human shepherds have failed you.
Keys	• The Shepherd's name comes first, and every provision flows from His character. • Sheep still walk dark valleys, yet the Shepherd's rod and staff comfort. • Goodness and mercy pursue the sheep, and Yahweh's house is their home.
Questions	1. Has an old wound from a failed shepherd taught us to distrust every church? 2. To whom do we run first when sorrow strikes, the Shepherd or a substitute? 3. Whose weakness are we ignoring while we feed ourselves and call it prudence?
Notes	Ezekiel 34 charges Israel's shepherds with feeding themselves while the flock scattered, then Yahweh promises to search for His sheep and set David His servant over them. Psalm 23 sings that promise, and Sunday evening showed the Lord Himself looking. Yes, old wounds teach suspicion, and Christ knows that hurt better than we do. Sorrow sends us first to a screen or a friend, and the Shepherd gets whatever prayer is left. The struggling member two pews over goes unnoticed while our own routines stay undisturbed, and that neglect is fear wearing respectable clothes. Indifference to the flock is a sin shepherds and sheep share, and it grieves us. Yet in Christ, the true David tends you gently. Cast yourself on the shed blood of the Lamb, and let Him heal your hurt.
Praise	Psalm 72:12-17 (The king who helps the helpless)
Pray	1. Sovereign Spirit, melt the distrust that old wounds have left in us, and lead us to the Shepherd who never breaks a bruised reed. 2. Lord of the church, make pastors and elders faithful shepherds, and bind up every soul wounded by shepherds who failed. 3. Comfort [Name], hurt by a failed shepherd; bring [Name], who doesn't know You, into Your fold.

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Thu Nov 5

Reading	Matthew 18:21-22 - Peter asked for a limit, and Jesus took away the counting, so forgive your brother without keeping a ledger.
Keys	• Peter's seven times sounded generous, yet Jesus abolishes all counting of offenses. • Ledger-keeping is a quiet unbelief about the debt Christ canceled for you. • Repeated offenses test whether our forgiveness rests on grace or on pride.
Questions	1. Which grudge have we nursed so long that it now feels like righteousness? 2. Do we forgive only after the offender has suffered enough to satisfy us? 3. What does a stingy pardon toward others reveal about our estimate of Christ's payment?
Notes	Peter's attempt to quantify mercy exposes our stubborn resistance to limitless pardon. Christ instead demands the boundless forgiveness Joseph graciously modeled toward his treacherous brothers. Our oldest grudge flatters us as the injured party, and it hurts to see how comfortably we wear that title. Yes, we often wait for the offender to squirm first, because that feels like justice. Withheld pardon proves we've priced Christ's payment far below our real debt, poor debtors that we are. Self-righteousness keeps books on everyone else, and it grieves us to see how tightly we grip the pen. Since Christ has settled the debt we could never pay, no ledger remains. Drop your grudge and hide in the sin-bearing sacrifice of our Substitute.
Praise	Psalm 130:1-8 (Forgiveness rests with Yahweh alone)
Pray	1. Merciful Father, mortify the bitterness we nurse against those who have wronged us, and train us to forgive as You forgave us in Christ. 2. Lord of the harvest, prepare our pastor as he studies the passages for this Lord’s Day. Steady his mind and humble his heart as he readies to preach Your Word. 3. Free [Name] from a grudge; awaken [Name], who feels no debt to God.

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Fri Nov 6

Reading	Matthew 18:23-35 - Tremble, for withholding mercy exposes a heart unacquainted with grace.
Keys	• Yahweh freely cancels spiritual debts we could never repay in ten thousand lifetimes. • Unforgiving servants prove they have never truly tasted the master's saving compassion. • Divine wrath justly falls upon hypocrites who demand grace but distribute vengeance.
Questions	1. Why are we so quick to choke our fellow servants over trivial earthly debts? 2. Which hidden self-righteousness makes us welcome God's pardon while viewing our neighbors with profound superiority? 3. Where has a root of bitterness sprouted in our homes because we refuse to forgive?
Notes	The wicked servant illustrates the terrifying hypocrisy of enjoying divine amnesty while brutalizing fellow debtors. This stunning parable vividly prepares us for Sunday's gospel warning, proving that failing to mirror the sovereign grace of Yahweh ends in absolute ruin. We happily sing of canceled sin while silently plotting revenge against those who slight us. Our towering pride convinces us that others owe us unyielding perfection, transforming our homes into miserable courts of law where no mercy is granted. We praise God that our true King suffered the punishment our hypocritical judgments deserve. Our homes often harbor idols of vindication and petty vengeance. Remembering that Christ absorbed the infinite wrath our sins earned, mortify the urge to exact payback. Cast every guilty conscience upon the Redeemer's blood for perfect peace.
Praise	Psalm 103:8-12 (He does not deal with us according to our sins)
Pray	1. Righteous Judge, crush our hypocritical demands for justice against those who wrong us. 2. Grant us attentive ears and soft hearts for the hearing of God's Word preached this Lord's Day. 3. Comfort [Name] in affliction, and grant the gift of life to [Name] quickly.

Household Worship Guide

Sat Nov 7

Reading	Exodus 34:6-7 - Worship the sovereign God whose steadfast love never eclipses His perfect justice against iniquity.
Keys	• Yahweh declares His glorious character as the foundation of our eternal salvation. • Perfect compassion and unyielding justice dwell flawlessly together within God's holy nature. • Divine mercy overcomes the weight of human rebellion and deeply ingrained sin.
Questions	1. In what ways do we unbiblically separate God's steadfast love from His terrifying holy justice? 2. Which of our presumptuous sins rely on a twisted, overly permissive view of God's patience? 3. How frequently do we doubt the Lord's willingness to pardon our repeated, shameful iniquities?
Notes	God's self-revelation to Moses establishes the theological bedrock for Joseph's forgiveness in Genesis. We boldly forgive others because Yahweh has declared Himself fundamentally merciful, patiently bearing with sinners while ensuring that every transgression receives full justice at the cross. We constantly invent a false deity who ignores sin, stripping him of his holy justice. Alternatively, we cower before an unpleasable tyrant, forgetting his slow anger and steadfast love toward his trembling children. As we swing wildly between presumption and despair, the Spirit graciously reminds us that Christ satisfies both divine mercy and wrath. We continually craft comfortable idols out of our shifting emotional needs. Since the Father has safely hidden us in the cleft of the Rock, stop separating His holy justice from His love. Cling desperately to the substitutionary atonement of the Savior.
Praise	Psalm 86:11-15 (You are a God merciful and gracious)
Pray	1. Holy Creator, correct our warped views of Your character and show us Your glory. 2. Empower tomorrow's reading and preaching with Your Spirit. 3. Sanctify [Name] through Your truth, and rescue [Name] from the dominion of darkness.